

Hello Chairmen thank you for your time  
Introduction

Here in support of CFSD budget  
but I would be negligent of my duties  
if I didn't ask this committee to  
recommend reinstating the diaper  
allowance and travel allowance as  
well as requesting you give serious  
consideration to maintain the \$2500  
allowable medical reimbursement for  
adopted children.

NSFADA feels strongly that the impact  
of the upcoming rate cuts will certainly  
be hard on foster families but the  
end result of cutting three critical  
services to children is even harder  
for families to bear.

Recruitment and retention of foster  
families is difficult as it is in these  
times but cutting services that are  
so necessary to the health and well  
being of these children during such  
a traumatic time in their development  
increases the possibility of broken adults.

~~the~~

Financial burdens on foster families have created huge family issues. When we decided ~~as~~ as a ~~family~~ couple to become foster parents we were adamant that we could not let it impact our children negatively. We quickly found that the behaviors and needs of many foster children were going to reshape our family on an ongoing basis but most families don't expect to also have mounting financial stress on their plates too.

We realize that these children are wards of the state but we have signed on to partner with you to guarantee these children have the same opportunities ~~as all~~ that every Montanan enjoys.

As foster parents we have been so enriched by these little lives and thus empowered by each and every one of them to insure they are first and foremost in the thoughts ~~and the~~ of each of you as you

make these decisions on how to protect and nurture them while in your custody.

Thank you for this opportunity to address something so important to each and every citizen of this great state.